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COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 23 February 1949

SUBJECT Communist Interest in Vencedores Revolt

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

1. Ecuadoran Communists have received a full report on the threatened revolt of the Vencedores Infantry Regiment which was to have taken place the night of 16 January, 1949, and have followed the case with great interest.
2. On 19 January, 1949 three Communist soldiers representing the enlisted men and non-commissioned officers of the Vencedores and the Mariscal Sucre Artillery Group reported to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador (PCE) the details which took place on the night in question.
3. The delegates stated that Communist elements within the Vencedores and the Mariscal units abided by previous decisions that revolutionary work should be carried on but that the actual timing of a revolt should await orders from higher up to ensure complete success throughout the country. They complained that a group within the revolutionary element which was impatient and over-anxious was in part responsible for the premature disclosure of the planned revolt. The delegates stated that their own plans for a revolt were in an advanced stage but that they had not planned to execute them as early as 16 January. The closed conference between representatives of the Vencedores and Mariscal Sucre on the afternoon of 16 January and the subsequent questioning of certain sergeants by government officials (cf. [REDACTED]) led to the government's conclusion that the revolt could be expected that night. According to the Communist delegates, the Minister of National Defense became unduly alarmed and took measures which were unnecessary.
4. Although the Communists and others of the revolutionary element in the army frequently invoke the name of Colonel Carlos Mancheno, they claim that there is absolutely no connection between the Vencedores movement and that of Mancheno as the latter's is almost exclusively among the officers. The three men described the Vencedores movement as a purely leftist movement which is largely Communist-inspired and exists for the exclusive welfare of the rank and file of the Army. The Mancheno movement exists among the officer corps which has affiliations with the Liberal and Socialist Parties, and seeks political rather than social reforms.

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